iovan Cullotta just can't rest until he's certain that everyone is well fed. Perseverance is in his blood.

Early on, the owner of Giovan's Restaurant & Pizzeria suffered a tragic setback—the loss

of his 3-month-old daughter Sophia Danielle to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Always an avid supporter of the community, he was slated to participate in United Cerebral Palsy of

Will County's annual Great Chefs Tasting just two weeks away. Despite still reeling from the loss, Giovan found solace in what he knew how to do best: creating incredible food with his own two hands.

Oktoberfest

Benefit For SIDS

At Giovan's · October 21st

Giovan went to work in the kitchen, preparing and sending the food

along for the event. Later, he would double down on his belief in the power of community by hosting his own spaghetti eating contest in support of SIDS research. Anyone who knows Giovan will tell you this wasn't surprising. Characterized as a jewel of a man by those who know him, he wanted to do his part to help ensure that no other family would ever have to go through such a thing. He also placed collection containers around the restaurant's bar area, which filled almost immediately in a showing of just how much the community he loves supports him too.

Italian cuisine is nearly synonymous with comfort food, and at Giovan's, the warm sense of welcome, of support, permeates over heaping plates of pasta, hearty slices of pizza and impeccably prepared entrees. It's an atmosphere of family. Here, they take pride in the details of what they do on a daily basis, handcrafting their own house sauces, garlic sticks, focaccia and cannoli from scratch.

The appreciation for their toils is apparent on customers' satisfied faces.

Though the restaurant is known for its Chicken Marsala, Giovan's UCP Chefs Tasting award-winning recipe, the eatery's menu touts many more crowd-pleasing favorites,

from pasta samplers that allow patrons to mix and match four pastas and sauces of their choice, to 28-inch pizzas that serve up a whopping 55 slices and feed up to 15 folks.

When it's a special occasion meal, the house has a few suggestions to set the tone: Start with flavorful Calamari Fritti, or their

mouthwatering Bruschetta made with fresh tomato, garlic, onion and basil in a balsamic vinaigrette, served with toasted garlic bread. For the main course, the Tilapia Limon prepared in a light white wine

and lemon sauce is a sure winner. A tempting selection of chicken, fish, veal and steak entrees are on the roster, including Bracciole, a rolled and breaded flank steak finished in red sauce; Chicken Scallopini and fresh Veal Parmigiana. Most entrees are sided with your choice of potato, spaghetti or mostaccioli, and every table receives a basket of Milano French bread, perfect for sopping up every last bit of those house-made sauces. Rounding out the full Italian entrée experience are Giovan's house specials and specialty pasta dishes, treating diners to classics like Baked Lasagna and Stuffed Shells to creative selections such as Cavatelli Rustica and Tortolloni Giovanni. Pizza selections run from the traditional in regular, thin or XXX thin crust to deep dish Chicago style, and a generous toppings list including items like shrimp, giardinara and more allows customization that simply can't be found just anywhere.

Bringing people together is part of Giovan's Restaurant & Pizzeria's charm.

To that end, the eatery features two banquet rooms with seating for up to 150 and 55 respectively, plus a wide array of entrée options and attractive party packages. Menus geared for any occasion are available, from fundraisers and family reunions to funeral luncheons. Giovan's also offers catering services, making a selection of their award-winning fare accessible nearly anywhere. Italian beef and bread by the pound, meatballs by the dozen, fried or broiled chicken, chicken wings, pizza and catering trays from half to full pans provide more than enough insurance that no one will be left hungry. Catering packages tailored by type of event are also on hand, and come complete with plasticware, plates, napkins and food for up to 25 people. Some items require extra preparation time, so it's wise to call ahead for

In addition to a menu chock full of stellar fare, banquet accommodations, catering and impeccable service, Giovan's is outfitted with a full bar, flat screens and a fine selection of beers by tap, bottle and can. They also feature live musical entertainment in the lounge, adding quality performances to the list of this local staple's charms.

Welcome to Giovan's Restaurant & Pizzeria. Amid the tinkling sounds of laughter shared by family and friends, the intoxicating aromas and award-winning cuisine, there's always a place waiting for you.

Community, comfort food, Italian. If you ask Giovan, it's a recipe for success.



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